

Make the Switch to PRS!

Newsflash: Report Technical Services for Conservation Practices in PRS Only Now

As of the publication of a forthcoming NRCS bulletin with the subject “MGT – Technical Service Provider Performance Reporting (TechPRS) which may occur during the latter half of May 2005, technical service providers (TSPs) will no longer report their accomplishments in TechPRS. NRCS will report for private TSPs in PRS. Public entity TSPs will report on the technical services they have provided in PRS.

Why did NRCS decide to stop using TechPRS?

- TechPRS does not connect with customer, land, and contract data sets. TechPRS does not allow NRCS to accurately track service providers’ accomplishments. Using PRS will make TSPs’ contributions count.

What kind of information does PRS record?

- PRS records much of the same information as TechPRS, but it locates the practices better. Document in PRS practice oriented services acquired by both participants and NRCS. NRCS will record most of this information in anticipation of the technical services getting completed. Unless the technical services delivered differ from those planned, reporting is as simple as checking a box.

How do I know if I am a private or public TSP?

- All TSPs are either private or public TSPs. Private TSPs work for themselves, a company, a non-profit organization, a university, or some other non-governmental organization. Public TSPs represent government entities like conservation districts, municipal, state, or federal agencies, or American Indian Tribes and Tribal Conservation Districts.

I am a private entity TSP. What information must I give to NRCS or the producer who hired me?

- At the time you enter into a contract, you should receive instructions on how to document your work. You will probably need to supply the following kinds of information for each practice that you plan, design, install, or checkout:
 - Service Provider Name
 - Customer Name
 - Program Name
 - Location of Work – State or Territory Area, County, Conservation District, Land Tract Identifier
 - Land Use
 - Practice Name, Amount, and Units
 - Service Types – Planning, Design, Installation, or Checkout

I am a public entity TSP. How do I report accomplishments in PRS?

- To log into PRS you will need (1) a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 Certificate and (2) a specific permission an NRCS contact can grant you through the Affiliate Link Manager. If you have not begun a TechReg certification application or conducted an electronic transaction with USDA, you need an eAuthentication Level 2 Certificate. Visit this link to begin the process: <https://eauth.sc.egov.usda.gov/eAuth/selfRegistration/selfRegLevel2Step1.jsp>. You will also need to confirm your identity at a local USDA service center. Find service centers through this link: http://offices.usda.gov/scripts/ndISAPI.dll/oip_public/USA_map.

Once you have an eAuthentication Level 2 Certificate, ask an NRCS contact to use the Affiliate Link Manager to grant your account access to PRS. To enter PRS, navigate to: <http://ias.sc.egov.usda.gov/PRSHOME/> and log in. You will find a link to the PRS manual there. Before reporting, you should know the conservation plan's name or have enough information to search for the plan. Click on the tab labeled "Reporting" to record your progress.

How do I identify who has provided technical services?

- When defining a conservation plan, you may choose up to six entity types assisting in placing the conservation practice. These include:
 - NRCS
 - Conservation District
 - RC & D Council
 - State Agency
 - TSP
 - Other

You should choose as many as apply to the conservation work planned or applied. For instance, if NRCS completed the plan and a state agency acting as a TSP developed the plan, oversaw the layout, and inspected the applied practice, then you should check boxes for NRCS, State Agency, and TSP. Find creative reasons to avoid "Other."

How do I identify the types of technical services provided?

- TechPRS records indicated provision of planning, design, installation, or check-out services. PRS differentiates between planning and application only. PRS planning comprises TechPRS plan and design, while PRS application subsumes TechPRS installation and check-out.

For further assistance, please contact your local TSP coordinator.

Visit <http://techreg.usda.gov/RptStateContact4Admin.aspx> for a list of coordinators.